

*Rev. J. B. Furter*  
**ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**MINUTES**  
OF THE

**THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING**

OF THE

**BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,**

**SOUTH ALABAMA:**

AND OF THE

**FIRST ANNUAL MEETING**

OF THE

**BETHEL BIBLE AND COLPORTEUR SOCIETY,**

HELD WITH THE

**DAYTON BAPTIST CHURCH,**

In Dayton, Marengo Co. Ala.

**1853.**

**Mobile:**

DADE, THOMPSON & CO. PRINTERS.

.....  
**1853.**



# THE THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

## OF THE

# BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

## SOUTH ALABAMA.

The Thirty-Third Anniversary of this body was held with the Dayton Church, in Marengo county, commencing on Saturday, October 1st, 1853.

The Introductory Sermon was preached at 11 o'clock, by Elder H. CREIGHTON, from Eph. V. 25, 26, 27.

After a short intermission, the Delegates were called to order by the Moderator of the last Association, who introduced the services with singing, followed by prayer by Rev. A. A. CONNELLA.

Brethren R. D. MARSHALL and L. B. LANE, at the request of the Moderator, then proceeded to read the Letters from the different Churches.

The following are the Churches and Delegates composing the Association :

	CHURCHES.	DELEGATES.
1st District.	PIGEON CREEK....	WM. HILL,* N. GOODWIN,* J. Cleveland.*
	BASSETT'S CREEK.....	No Delegates.
	PARAN.....	A. J. Stringer,* Zeno S. Parker,* J. M. Howell.*
	EBENEZER.....	Jas. Waldrum, J. Roberts,* P. A. Mathews.*
	ULCONUSH.....	H. R. Williams,* J. M. Todd, R. Cox.
	HOREB.....	H. CREIGHTON, Jno. Daniel, J. L. Megginson.*
	SALEM.....	A. J. Benson, N. Kennedy,* Wm. Larimore.
2d District.	ROCKVILLE.....	T. H. Ball.*
	NANAFALIA.....	J. G. WILLIAMS, J. B. Williams, A. Waller.
	UNION.....	L. Ethridge, A. Lancaster, R. H. Hudson.
	ELIM.....	J. S. Trawick, W. A. Anderson,* W. H. Reed.
	NEWHOPE.....	L. L. DEWITT, B. C. Foster, D. Bird.
	SHILOH.....	G. B. Jones, T. H. Dunning,* P. D. Stafford.
	FRIENDSHIP.....	T. TUCKER, J. M. Anderson,* Jack Collins.*
3d District.	PISGAH.....	N. THOMAS, H. Adams, Jos. W. Nicholson.*
	ENON.....	Not represented by Letter or Delegate.
	LIBERTY.....	T. J. Holtam, Jas. Nichols, W. Merrill.
	LINDEN.....	B. Ringgold, Jas. W. Tucker.*
	MT. PLEASANT.....	Moses Westbrook, F. F. Westbrook,* Wm. Bush.*
	SPRING HILL.....	A. A. CONNELLA, N. Smith, L. B. Lane.
	PROVIDENCE.....	S. Madison, S. S. Taylor, B. T. Parker.
4th District.	DAYTON.....	R. D. Marshall, W. L. Kelly, R. G. Napier.
	FELLOWSHIP.....	W. J. PARKER, B. W. Reed, Lewis Simmons.
	UNIONTOWN.....	L. L. FOX, A. G. Hudson, J. B. Vaiden.
	BETHEL.....	Jno. TALBOT, Jno. Jackson, L. Anderson.
	HEBRON.....	C. W. Lee.
	CONCORD.....	J. REEVES, Wm. Mathews, E. G. Talbert.*
	BOILING SPRING.....	Jno. Kelly, Warren Massey, W. D. Thruston.
4th District.	POPULAR SPRING.....	Not represented by Letter or Delegate.
	FAREWELL.....	J. P. VAUGHN, J. Dunnaway, Jas. Pierson.

NOTE—An (\*) denotes absence—Ordained Ministers in SMALL CAPITALS—Licentiates in *italics*.

## THE STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

### PIGEON CREEK CHURCH, near Suggsville, Clarke County, Ala.

Has nothing of importance to communicate—enjoys peace and harmony. Meets on the 2d Lord's Day in each Month—has Bro. H. Creighton's pastoral services. Baptized since the last Association, none—Dismissed by letter, 7—Lost by death, 2. Total number 60—being a loss of 9. Contributed for Minutes, \$2.00. T. Hill, Church Clerk.

### BASSETT'S CREEK CHURCH, near Jackson, Clarke County, Ala.

Communicates nothing of special interest—has the pastoral labors of Bro. H. Creighton on 3d Lord's Days—has enjoyed the Missionary services of Brethren A. A. Connella and N. Thomas, for which she is grateful. Baptized, 1—Dismissed by letter, 3—Number of Whites 25—Blacks, 20—Total, 45—Net loss, 2. Contributed for Minutes, \$2.00; for Home Missions, \$5.00. Josiah Jones, Church Clerk.

### PARAN CHURCH, near Jackson, Clarke County, Ala.

Speaks of coldness—has had the Missionary labors of Brethren A. A. Connella and N. Thomas—desires a missionary next year. Received by letter 3—Total number of Whites and Blacks, 36—Net gain, 7—Contributed for Minutes, \$1.25—for Home Missions, within the bounds of the Association, \$5.00. Zeno S. Parker, Church Clerk.

### EBENEZER CHURCH, near Grove Hill, Clarke County, Ala.

Complains of coldness, but enjoys peace—desires your prayers. Baptized, 1—Dismissed by letter, 2—Excluded, 1—Lost by death, 2—Number of Whites, 24—Blacks, 2—Total 26—Net loss, 2—Contributed for Minutes, \$1.50—for Home missions, \$4.25. Josiah Mathews, Church Clerk.

### ULCONUSH CHURCH, near Coffeeville, Clarke County, Ala.

Speaks of a warm state of feeling—good congregations on days of preaching—enjoys the faithful services of Bro. J. G. Williams, their Pastor—Meets 2d Lord's day in each month. Baptized, 6—Received by letter, 3—Dismissed by letter, 5—Restored, 1—Excluded, 1—Lost by death, 1—Number of White members, 107—Blacks, 53—Total, 160. Gain, 1—Contributed for Minutes, \$5.00—for Home Missions, within the bounds of the Association, \$13.50—for African missions within the bounds of the Association, (contributed by Blacks) \$2.20. T. B. Pace, Church Clerk.

### HOREB CHURCH, near Grove Hill, Clarke County, Ala.

Communicates nothing especially interesting—mourns the loss, by death, of one of her Deacons, Bro. G. D. Megginson—served by Bro. H. Creighton as Pastor on the 4th Lord's day. Baptized, 8—Received by letter, 4—Dismissed by letter, 2—Lost by death, 1—Number of Whites, 43—Blacks, 7—Total, 50—Net gain, 9—Contributed for Minutes, \$2.50—for Home missions, \$5.00—for Foreign missions, 25c.—Bible cause, 75c. W. T. Megginson, Church Clerk.



**SALEM CHURCH, near Grove Hill, Clarke County, Ala.**

Communicates nothing interesting—speaks of difficulties and asks the prayers of the Association. Baptized, 12—Received by letter, 1—Restored, 1—Number of Whites, 64—Blacks, 3—Total, 67—Net gain, 14—Contributed for Minutes, \$3.00—Home missions, \$2.50. E. Larimer, Church Clerk.

**ROCKVILLE CHURCH, near Jackson, Clarke County, Ala.**

Reports her numbers to be small—hopes, however, to be able to secure pastoral services before the next Association. T. H. Ball, Church Clerk, pro tem.

**NANAFALIA CHURCH, at Nanafalia, Marengo County, Ala.**

Says she is in peace—enjoys the pastoral oversight of Bro. J. G. Williams—Meets on 3d Lord's days and Saturday before—Bro. Connella preaches for her the 2d Lord's days in each month—has a prayer meeting and two Sabbath schools within her bounds. Baptized, 12—Received by letter, 6—Dismissed by letter, 19—Excluded, 2—Deceased, 10—Number of Whites, 127—Blacks, 66—Total, 193—Net loss, 31—Contributed for Minutes, \$5.00—for Home Missions, \$25. J. L. Barnes, Church Clerk.

**UNION CHURCH, near Sweet Water, Marengo County, Ala.**

Refers with much pleasure to a protracted meeting held with her in September—enjoys the pastoral labors of Bro. J. G. Williams on the 1st Lord's day in each month and the day preceding. Baptized, 5—Received by letter, 4—Restored, 1—Dismissed by letter, 8—Excluded, 1—Number of White members, 112—Blacks, 53—Total, 165—Net gain, 1—Contributed for Minutes, \$5.00. R. H. Hudson, Church Clerk.

**ELIM CHURCH, near Choctaw Corner, Clarke County, Ala.**

Communicates nothing interesting—says she has passed through a season of coldness—has lost one of her Deacons, Bro. Allen Hudson, by death—Brother L. L. Dewitt serves her as Pastor—Meets on 1st Lord's day and Saturday preceding. Baptized, 2—Received by letter, 1—Dismissed by letter, 4—Excluded, 3—Restored, 1—Lost by death, 1—Total, 61—Net loss, 2—Contribution for Minutes, \$2.50. J. S. Trawick, Church Clerk.

**NEWHOPE CHURCH, at Choctaw Corner, Clarke County, Ala.**

Has nothing more than her usual statistics to report—Meets on 3d Lord's days—Pastor is Bro. L. L. Dewitt. Baptized, 7—Received by letter, 5—Dismissed by letter, 4—Excluded, 4—Deceased, 3—Number of Whites, 143, Blacks, 12, Total, 155—Net gain, 1—Ordained Minister, 1—Sabbath of Meeting, 3d—Contribution for Minutes, \$4.50—Home Missions, 15c—Foreign Missions, 25c—Indian Missions, 25c—Association Fund, \$1.45. M. Upchurch, Church Clerk.

**SHILOH CHURCH, near Shiloh, Marengo County, Ala.**

Expresses gratitude to God for past mercies; mourns the loss of her much esteemed and worthy Brother, Elder Wm. Dossey; has the pastoral labors of Bro. J. G. Williams on the 4th Lord's days and Satur-

days preceding. Baptized, 3—Received by letter, 5—Dismissed by letter, 7—Excluded, 5—Lost by death, 1—Number of Whites 124, Blacks 38, Total 162—Net loss, 5—Contributed for Minutes, \$5.00—Domestic Missions, \$18.33. P. D. Stafford, Church Clerk.

#### **FRIENDSHIP CHURCH, near Hampden, Marengo County, Ala.**

Reports she has nothing of a revival spirit; Bro. T. Tucker is her Pastor; has a small Sabbath school; meets the 2d Lord's day. Received by letter, 1—Dismissed by letter, 5—Excluded, 1—Restored 1—Lost by death, 1—Number of Whites, 60, Blacks, 19, Total, 79—Loss, 6—Contribution for Minutes, \$3.00—Domestic Missions, \$5.70. Ennis Loftin, Church Clerk.

#### **PISGAH CHURCH, near Béthel, Wilcox County, Ala.**

Says she is rather in a cold state, yet in peace; days of preaching 3d Sabbath; Bro. Samuel Wright, Pastor. Baptized, 2—Received by letter, 1—Dismissed by letter, 3—Deceased, 1—Number of Whites, 59, Blacks, 19, Total, 78—Loss, 1—Contribution for Minutes, \$2.50—Domestic Missions, \$6.00. J. W. Nicholson, Church Clerk.

#### **ENON CHURCH, near Pine Hill, Wilcox County, Ala.**

No communication from this Church, which last year numbered 55 White and 4 Blacks, Total, 59.

#### **LIBERTY CHURCH, near Bashi, Clarke County, Ala.**

Refers with pleasure to a protracted meeting held with her in December last; enjoys peace; meets on the 4th Lord's days; Bro. Wm. Ivans, Pastor. Baptized, 8—Received by letter, 9—Dismissed by letter, 3—Total, 37—Gain, 14—Contribution for Minutes, \$2.50. Wm. H. Loftin, Church Clerk.

#### **LINDEN CHURCH, at Linden, Marengo County, Ala.**

Has no Pastor, consequently has had no Church meetings or conferences; solicits the prayers and direction of your body; many of whom understand well her feeble condition. Lost by death, 1—Number of Whites, 8, Blacks, 59, Total, 67—Net loss, 1—Contributed for Minutes, 50c. B. Ringgold, Clerk pro tem.

#### **MOUNT PLEASANT CHURCH, at Jefferson, Marengo County, Ala.**

States that her last meeting was protracted nine days, when the Church was greatly blessed; Bro. Lowry is her pastoral supply; meets second Lord's days. Baptized, 8—Received by letter, 3—Recantation, 1—Dismissed by letter, 1—Excluded, 1—Number of Whites, 85, Blacks, 18, Total, 103—Gain, 12—Contribution for Minutes \$2.25. J. W. Smith, Church Clerk.

#### **SPRING HILL CHURCH, at Spring Hill, Marengo County, Ala.**

Has passed through no material change since last Association; has a flourishing Sabbath school and weekly prayer meeting; congregations larger than they have been for several years; Bro. Connella, her Pastor, preaches regularly on the first and third Sabbaths, and a part of the year on the fourth; peace and good feeling still prevail. She requests

your attention to the subject of bringing our Churches to some uniform, just and scriptural plan of putting men into the ministry. Baptized, 4—Received by letter, 5; Restored, 1—Dismissed by letter, 2—Excluded, 11, (all blacks)—Number of White, 40, Blacks, 141, Total, 181—Loss, 3—Contribution for Minutes, \$1.50. L. B. Lane, Church Clerk.

#### PROVIDENCE CHURCH, near Spring Hill, Marengo County, Ala.

Has nothing cheering to communicate; has had regular preaching only half of the year; has lost by death four of her most efficient female members; desires your prayers. Baptized, 2—Received by letter, 2—Dismissed by letter, 2—Excluded, 3—Lost by death, 4—Number of Whites, 42, Blacks, 10, Total, 52—Net loss, 5—Contribution for Minutes, \$2.00. Wm. G. Madison, Church Clerk.

#### DAYTON CHURCH, at Dayton, Marengo County, Ala.

Enjoys peace and harmony; has the regular services of Bro. Ed. Baptist twice a month, and occasionally the labors of Bro. E. G. Baptist, who has been ordained to the Ministry since the last Association; meets 1st and 3d Sabbath. Baptized, 7—Received by letter, 10—Dismissed by letter, 2—Excluded, 1—Lost by death, 1—Total, 29—Net gain, 13—Ordained Ministers, 2—Contribution for Minutes, \$2.00. R. D. Marshall, Church Clerk.

#### FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, near Demopolis, Marengo County, Ala.

States that she has enjoyed a precious revival season; meets on 4th Lord's Day; Wm. J. Parker is her pastor. Baptized, 23—Received by letter, 6—Dismissed by letter, 2—Excluded, 1—Lost by death, 1—Number of Whites, 60, Blacks, 13, Total, 73—Net Gain, 20—Contribution for Minutes, \$2.50,—Associational Funds, \$2.50. Wm. G. Williams, Church Clerk.

#### UNIONTOWN CHURCH, at Uniontown, Perry County, Ala.

Has had some additions; has a prayer meeting and flourishing Sabbath school. Baptized, 43—Received by letter, 9—Dismissed by letter, 33—Excluded, 3—Lost by death, 4—Number of Whites, 65, Blacks, 223, Total, 288—Net gain, 35—Contributed for Minutes, \$2.50. J. B. Vaiden, Church Clerk.

#### HEBRON CHURCH, near Uniontown, Perry County, Ala.

Eventually reports herself; is in a cold condition; has no pastor; no house of worship, but is endeavoring to build one. Contribution for Minutes, \$1.00—Domestic Missions, \$10.00—Number of Whites, 6, Blacks, 30, Total, 36—Loss since last reported in 1850—67. C. W. Lee, Church Clerk.

#### CONCORD CHURCH, near Liberty Hill, Dallas County, Ala.

States she is at peace, and has the pastoral services of Bro. Jeremiah Reeves. Baptized, 56—Received by letter, 7—Restored, 7—Dismissed by letter, 2—Excluded, 2—Lost by death, 1—Number of Whites, 29, Blacks, 135, Total, 164—Net gain, 61—Contribution for Minutes, \$2.00. E. G. Talbert, Church Clerk.

### BETHEL CHURCH, at McKinley, Marengo County, Ala.

Reports herself in a cold state; meets on 1st Lord's day; Bro. F. C. Lowry, Pastor. Received by experience, 2; By letter, 5; Restored, 2; Dismissed by letter, 3; Excluded, 2; Lost by death, 2—Number of Whites, 76, Blacks, 42, Total, 118—Loss, 6—Contribution for Minutes, \$3.00. Wm. F. Perkins, Church Clerk.

### POPLAR SPRING CHURCH, near Rehoboth, Wilcox County, Ala.

Sends no Letter or Delegate. Last year it reported Whites, 10; Blacks, 7; Total, 17.

### BOILING SPRING CHURCH, near Creagh's Mills, Wilcox County, Ala.

Says she enjoys the blessings of peace; meets on 3d Lord's days; Bro. F. C. Lowry, Pastor. Received by letter, 1—Restored, 1—Dismissed by letter, 2—Lost by death, 3—Number of Whites, 25, Blacks, 12, Total, 37—Net loss, 7—Contribution for Minutes, \$1.50. Wm. H. C. Perkins, Church Clerk.

### FAREWELL CHURCH, near Upper Peach Tree, Wilcox County, Ala.

Is at peace: Bro. A. Sale, Pastor; meets on 2d Lord's day and Saturday preceding. Excommunicated, 6—Restored, 1—Total, 57—Net loss, 5—Contribution for Minutes, \$1.50; Domestic Missions, \$1.50. Jeremiah Dunnaway, Clerk, pro tem.

## SUMMARY.

Baptized during the year in the Churches heard from...	190
Received by Letter.....	91
Restored.....	18
Total Increase.....	299
Dismissed by Letter.....	121
Excluded.....	48
Lost by Death.....	40
Total Decrease.....	209
Total net gain in Churches heard from.....	90
Total number of Whites.....	1,418
Total number of Blacks.....	986
Several Churches failed to report the number of Whites and Blacks separately. The total from such Churches is.....	251
Total Membership.....	2,655
Being 122 more than last year.	



The names of the Delegates having been ascertained, the body went into the election of its Officers, which resulted in the choice of A. A. CONNELLA, Moderator, and ISAAC B. VAIDEN, Clerk.

The Association being thus organized, the Moderator extended the usual invitation to Visiting Brethren to sit with us, and aid us in our deliberations.

An opportunity being offered to Churches to apply for membership into this body, the Rockville Church presented her letter and was unanimously received.

The Moderator then proceeded to appoint the following Committees to report during the present session.

*To Arrange the Religious Services*—J. B. Williams, N. Smith, A. G. Hudson, and the Deacons of Dayton Church.

*Documents and Requests*—H. Creighton, Parker and Lane.

*Finance and Auditing*—J. B. Williams, Jones, Waldrum, Lee, Foster and Madison.

*Correspondence*—W. J. Parker, Reeves and Vaughn.

*Nominations*—Jno. Jackson, Williams and Daniel.

*Digest of the Letters*—H. Adams, Cox and Simmons.

*Ordered*, That a Missionary Sermon be preached in each of the Churches, to-morrow, and that a collection be taken up.

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to prepare an Obituary notice of Elder William Dossey, to be published with the Minutes—The following composed the Committee: F. C. Lowry, J. G. Williams and T. Tucker.

The Moderator then called for Correspondence, and we received from the *Liberty Association*, a Letter and package of Minutes, by Elder — Russel.

*Bigby River*—A package of Minutes, by Elder W. J. Parker.

*Choctaw*—A letter, by Elder L. Perkins.

A letter from Bro. John Talbert was read, giving the reason why he was deprived the pleasure of meeting with us—the afflictions of himself and family.

The Minutes of the District meeting were called for and referred to the Committee on Documents and Requests.

The Committee to arrange preaching for to-morrow reported as follows: Elder F. C. Lowry to preach the Missionary Sermon at 11 o'clock in the Baptist Church, Elder A. A. CONNELLA in the Methodist Church, the same hour.

*Resolved*, That the hours for convening the body shall be 9 o'clock A. M. to adjourn at 12½—In the evening to convene at 2 o'clock and adjourn 4½.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, Monday morning. Prayer by Elder T. TUCKER.

LORD'S DAY, October, 2d, 1853.

The exercises on Sabbath were conducted according to the arrangement of the Committee,—the Alternate, Elder L. L. Fox supplying the place of Elder LOWRY, who was prevented by sickness from attending. The collection from the two congregations amounted to \$52.55.

Services were continued in the evening in the Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian Churches.

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MONDAY, Oct. 3d, 1853.

At 9 o'clock the Delegates assembled in the basement story of the Methodist Church, and the business of the Association was introduced by singing "*Oh for a thousand tongues to sing,*" and prayer by Bro. DEWITT.

The Rules of Decorum were read, after which the List of Delegates was called over and corrected.

*Resolved*, That we adjourn at 2½ o'clock to give the "Bethel Bible and Colporteur Society," an opportunity for transacting its business.

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## REPORT ON THE STATE OF RELIGION.

The Committee on the State of Religion made the following report: Your Committee deeply regret that it is not better informed upon the subject submitted to its consideration, than it is. But from the best information it has received, it concludes that the Churches are in a cold state of Religion. It is happy to say, however, that some of the Churches composing this body have been greatly revived, and that in other portions of our country Religion is in a flourishing condition. Your committee believes that if the Churches would awake to their duty, consider their true position, and the kind and beneficent God that rules over them, there would be a large increase of zeal manifested in the cause of our Lord and Master. And it further believes, that if all our Ministering Brethren could be aroused to their duty—and we think some of them are—Religion would flourish in our midst, and we should be made to rejoice in seeing our neighbors and friends forsaking their sins, and seeking an interest in our Lord Jesus Christ.

As to the state of Religion among our coloured population, your committee would refer you to your Missionary for that information.

Respectfully submitted,

S. MADISON, *Chairman*.

Report adopted.

## REPORT ON MISSIONS OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION.

Your Committee on the Missions of the Southern Baptist Convention would report, that they have had this subject under consideration since the last Association. They have with some care, perused the organ of the Mission Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention ("The Home & Foreign Journal,") and also the annual reports of the Boards, for the purpose of informing themselves upon the operations of this important Missionary body. They find these Boards actively employed in carrying forward Domestic and Foreign Missions to the extent of the means furnished them by Southern Baptists.

The Domestic Mission Board, of which the Rev. Joseph Walker, late of St. Louis, is now the Corresponding Secretary, is located at Marion, Ala. The field of operations for this Board is the Southern and South-western portions of our Confederacy. They have, during the past year, had Missionaries in Maryland, The District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri, Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana. They have had, during the year embraced in their last Report, *seventy-seven* Missionaries in their employment. From the reports of *fifty-eight* of this number, we perceive that "217 Stations have been supplied with preaching; 5,958 sermons and addresses have been delivered; 1,521 prayer and other religious meetings have been attended; 642 have been baptized; 381 added by letter; 763 converted, not baptized; making 1,786 substantial additions to the strength of our cause in one year—65,182 miles travelled, 8712 religious visits made, 59 Sabbath schools and Bible classes, 218 teachers, 105 scholars are reported, but these statistics are known to be very deficient. 17 meeting-houses are reported to have been commenced, 13 finished, 21 churches constituted, 24 Ministers and 34 Deacons ordained.

This Board has in charge as one of its special objects Missions to the Blacks. In their last Report they say, "The Board feeling the delicacy and difficulty of carrying on Missions among the colored people have adopted the following plan: If any Association or Church desire to have a Mission among the Blacks, and are willing to raise at least one half the expense, the Board will as far as it consistently can, assist to the remainder: *Provided*, the Mission is placed under the immediate supervision of an Executive Committee of said Association or Church, without whose nomination no missionary is appointed and to whom the missionary shall report periodically, as well as to our Board." This plan must commend itself to every mind as wise and prudent. Upon this plan two Missionaries to the Blacks within our bounds, "under the immediate supervision" of our own Executive Board, have been aided the present year. This Board of the Southern Baptist Convention *needs, deserves, and should have the prayers and liberal support* of all the members of our Churches.

The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention is located at Richmond, Va.; Rev. James B. Taylor continues to be their corresponding secretary. The attention of this Board has been chiefly directed to China and Africa, two very extensive and very important

fields of foreign missionary labor. They are now, however, calling for laborers to commence operations in Havana, Mexico, Rio Janeiro, Valparaiso, Panama, and other South American and European fields of missionary labor. In China their operations have been confined to Shanghai and Canton, with only one out-station, called *Oo-kah-jak*, about ten miles from Shanghai. In China, they have "14 missionaries and 2 native assistants, 1 boarding school and 5 day schools and chapels." In Africa, (besides the Central African Mission,) they have 13 stations, 19 missionaries and teachers, 11 day schools, with about 400 scholars. These missionaries have all been visited by our esteemed brother, Eli Ball, and he considers them, though not thoroughly educated men, as "in advance of the people among whom they labor, in piety, talents and knowledge." And "the impression made upon his mind concerning the various missions is of a highly favorable character." The Central African Mission is one of peculiar interest. Your Committee regret that the want of space forbids the presentation here of some of the interesting results of the explorations of Brother Bowen in Central Africa. He says: "I have selected Ijaye as the place for our first station. Within from one to five days journey of Ijaye are several large cities, as Ibadon, population 50,000; Oyo, 25,000; Abbeokuta, 60,000; Oghomisho, 40,000; Ilorin, 100,000; Ishakhi, 35,000, &c." Three stations are proposed in Central Africa to be occupied by six Missionaries, four of whom are already secured. Total stations and out-stations under the Foreign Board, 19; missionaries and assistants, 39; schools, 17; scholars, 480; churches, 14, with a membership of 644. For further very interesting information in reference to the Missions of the Southern Baptist Convention, your Committee beg leave to refer you to the Reports of the Boards found in the proceedings of the last Convention in Baltimore, and also to the "Home and Foreign Journal," published monthly, at Richmond, Va., for 25 cents per annum. The next meeting of the Convention will be held in Montgomery, Ala., on the second Friday in May, 1855.

Respectfully submitted,

CONNELLA, LANE and PALMER, *Committee*.

Report adopted.

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## REPORT ON MISSIONARY OPERATIONS AMONG WHITES AND BLACKS.

Your Committee on our own Missions to Whites and Blacks would report, that they have had under consideration the subjects committed to them, and have been taking notice of the operations of the Board, and the work of the Missionaries in their employment during the year, and your Committee are pleased to commend the course pursued by the Executive Board in reference to the appointments and expenditures of the year. We find that the amount sent up for Domestic Missions to this meeting is exceedingly small. We are aware, however, that some of our ablest and most liberal churches in the upper part of the



Association are contributing through the Convention and Domestic Boards, S. B. C., and that we receive their contributions in another way. We had hoped that the churches for which our Missionaries have been laboring in the lower part of our bounds, would have largely increased their amounts sent up to this Board. We recommend a continuation of our efforts to give the preached Word to all, White and Black, who have it not, and we trust the Board for the coming year may be guided by the Lord of the vineyard in all their labors.

Adopted.

J. B. WILLIAMS, *Chairman.*

## REPORT ON INDIAN MISSIONS.

The Committee on Indian Missions submit the following as their report :

The subject of "Indian Missions" is one of great importance and deep interest to the Churches South and West ; yet that interest is not so deep as it should be, nor is it manifested in the way of contributions to the cause to that extent which our obligations to them and our Holy Redeemer demand at our hands. He that gave himself for us, requires that we should give of our earthly possessions to the great objects of spreading the Gospel abroad and the conversion of the world to himself, "according as he has prospered us" And to encourage us in this great enterprise, He tells us our labors shall not be "in vain in the Lord," and that our reward shall be a crown of rejoicing in Heaven.

While we are bound to do all we can to evangelize the world, there are some portions to which we owe more than to others, and to none are we under greater obligations than to the poor Indian, save the African in our midst. We now possess their lands, rivers, homes, and the graves of their fathers. Out of their immense forests we have built towns and cities, colleges and palaces, school-houses and churches. From the fields once the scene of their wild and savage sports, we are now gathering golden harvests of the rarest productions of earth's luxuries. From the fields once red with their blood springs forth our bread, and from them we reap our fortunes. But the Indian still roams in search of new forests, new scenes of sport, and new enemies upon whom to satisfy his thirst for blood. This, we are wont to think, is his native element, his savage trade. Be it so; and yet the abounding grace of God, through the Gospel, can subdue even his warlike nature, and make him, with us, "one in Christ Jesus." Of this, my brethren, we have many examples. Our Missionaries have gone forth to them, bearing precious seed, and weeping as they went; but they have sent us tidings back of their return to God. Yes, the Lord has taken from the savage Indians a people for himself; and now, he that once gloried in the blood of his fellow, glories in the Cross of Christ. Much has been done for this people in the way of literary and religious instruction, and yet we have fallen far short of our duty to them and to our Lord, who has commanded us to "preach the Gospel to every creature."

We learn, through the reports of our Missionaries, that the Missions are in a healthy condition, and that a goodly number has been baptized into the fellowship of the Church the past year. But from a late communication addressed to Dr. Howell, from Brother Buckner, and published in the Religious Herald, of Richmond, Va., we learn that the Mission where he is stationed is in a distressed condition, for want of funds to go forward in the work. He writes that he is in want of the necessities of life. And shall we suffer this want among our Missionaries while we are abounding in the luxuries of life?—and when but a small portion of that they need, from each of our Churches, would satisfy all their demands, and render them comfortable.

May the Lord give us liberal hearts, that we may “provide liberal things” for the poor Indian!

In the tenth annual report of the Indian Missionary Association, published in May last, it is stated that the Missionaries informed the Board, “That the pupils in the various schools, in the most essential branches of an education, are making as rapid proficiency as the youth of our own more highly favored race ordinarily do.” True, some of them have been abandoned, but it was only for the lack of means to keep them up. The Board being reduced to the necessity of either abandoning some of the Missions or the Schools, made the latter subordinate to higher and more important duty of preaching the Gospel. Still it must be admitted that, in order to make the labors of the Missionaries of permanent utility, the moral and mental culture of the rising generation is of vital importance.

There are under the patronage of the Board 4 Missions, including 6 stations and 10 out-stations. These positions are occupied by 25 Missionaries and assistants. There are 22 Churches, in which there have been 146 baptisms, during the year ending in May last. The total number of communicants is estimated about 1,500.

Brother Buckner, who is Missionary to the Creeks, writes to the Board that he had baptized 65, and collected for benevolent purposes \$412 25. Such benevolence among Indians who are just emerging from barbarism, is enough to shame us, who have been so long rejoicing in the privilege of the Gospel of Christ. The Board received the past year little over \$14,000, and paid out over \$13,000, leaving a very small balance to begin the present year with. They conclude their report by saying that they cannot occupy all the stations without a more liberal support from the Churches. What shall they do, brethren? Shall they come back or go forward? It is for you to decide. The Lord help you to decide in his fear. Your committee cannot conclude this report without recommending to your liberal support and fervent prayers this branch of our Missionary labors; and, also, that our Churches subscribe to the “Advocate,” the organ of the Missions.

Respectfully submitted.

FOX, BAPTIST and MARSHALL, *Committee.*

Adopted.

## REPORT ON THE BIBLE AND PUBLICATION CAUSES.

Your Committee, to whom was referred the subjects of the Bible and Publication Causes, have had the same under consideration, and are of opinion that such is the vast importance of these subjects that they demand the prayerful and deliberate consideration of every member of your venerable body. The objects they contemplate will doubtless have an important bearing on the religious instruction of the rising generation, and the increase of the members of our Churches and their growth in grace. Nor would we forget the formation of the "BETHEL BIBLE AND COLPORTEUR SOCIETY" within our own bounds, whose object is to bring their influence to bear upon our own Churches.

Your Committee would therefore suggest—1st, That each Pastor shall preach at least one sermon to his respective Church or Churches on this subject sometime between this and our next session, with a view to stir up the brethren to duty on this highly important branch of Christian action. 2d, That the Churches become auxiliaries of said Society, and send up their delegates to the next annual meeting, as suggested in the Constitution. 3d, That every member of the Churches become an annual member of the Society, unless it be those who desire to express a greater degree of liberality by becoming life-members, or life-directors. 4th, That the Churches constitute their Pastors life-members, and thus come up to the help of the Lord against the Mighty with warm hearts and open hands, and in this way to enable the Board to go immediately into the great and good work, which will, by the blessing of God, convert our barren Association into a fruitful field.

Respectfully submitted,

Adopted.

J. REEVES, *Chairman.*

## REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Your Committee, appointed at the last Association to attend to the duty of Ministerial Education, beg leave to report: That a very brief consideration of the subject is sufficient to satisfy them of its transcendent importance. The duties of the Gospel Ministry are more arduous, difficult and important than those of any profession or employment on earth. All others seem limited in their object and their end to the present life; but the labors of the faithful Minister of the Gospel will tell on the interests and destinies of Eternity—will prove a Saviour of life or of death. Well might an Apostle exclaim, "Who is sufficient for these things?" That man who undertakes to proclaim God's word, and will not diligently avail himself of every aid, human and divine, within his reach to qualify him for the successful performance of the duty, lies in a state of awful delinquency. Ministers should study that, by rightly dividing the Word of Truth, they may approve themselves and their labors to God. They should give *attention to reading*, as well as to exhortation and doctrine. Our young men have facilities of improvement

in our numerous and excellent schools and colleges that the older never enjoyed—they should not be neglected. Let their minds be properly trained by intellectual, and their hearts by moral and religious culture: and, in addition to their scientific improvements, they should not rest satisfied until they can read the Scriptures in the languages in which they were originally published, with ease and accuracy. Our older Ministers may derive great advantages from reading some of those invaluable books published in modern times, such as Jonathan Edwards, Andrew Fuller, Thomas Hartwell Horn, and others, which have thrown much light on the Bible. They serve as important helps; yet the Bible alone should remain our only standard of faith and practice. Let us study it diligently and prayerfully—understand it correctly, and preach it faithfully. And “Oh, ye mitred heads, lay not your consecrating hands on skulls that cannot teach and will not learn.” All of which is respectfully submitted.

Adopted.

ED. BAPTIST, *Chairman.*

## REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

This Report, after undergoing some slight amendments, was adopted in the following form:

Your Committee have been making inquiry into the subject committed to them, and, from all they can learn, Sabbath schools are receiving but little attention within the bounds of this Association. Though they have had the subject under consideration for some time, yet they are at a loss to know what will be most likely to stimulate our Churches to action on this most important, but much neglected subject. So much has been said upon its great importance, that it would seem presumptuous on our part to urge it further. All must agree, however, that it is one of the greatest auxiliaries of the Gospel, and, as such, we should feel it our duty to establish one in every Church. And as an inducement to effect an organization of a Sabbath School in every Church in our Association, your Committee would recommend the procuring of Sabbath School Libraries from the “Bethel Bible and Colporteur Society,” recently organized within our bounds. Now, shall we, members of the Baptist Church of Christ, with the facilities which this Society may afford, sit idle and let the youth desecrate the Sabbath in idleness, and thus grow up without a full knowledge of the Bible, that great compass which the mariner from Time unto Eternity is so constantly in need of? No; let us join, say six or eight members of every Church, and volunteer as teachers, that our burthen be light, and organize a Sabbath School in, or near, every Church in the Bethel Baptist Association, and thus have the rising generation versed in the Bible, and made so much more susceptible of the Gospel.

Now, we most earnestly appeal to all the lay-members of the Baptist denomination to examine themselves, in view of their awful responsibility to God and to the World, and to bring up their children in the way they should go, so that when they become old they may not depart therefrom. Your Committee would recommend to your body to re-



quest the Pastors of the several Churches of this Association to preach at least one sermon annually on the proper observance of the Sabbath, and the propriety of sustaining the Sabbath School.

Respectfully submitted,

ENNIS LOFTIN, *Chairman.*

## REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The Committee, to whom was referred the subject of Temperance, and the resolution presented at the last annual meeting, deprived of the presence, counsel and sanction of one of their number, Brother G. D. Megginson, whom a kind Father in Heaven has, during the past year, removed by death from the scenes of earth, and whose zeal in the cause of Temperance while here requires no light tribute of respect, would respectfully present the following report :

That we favor the Maine Law, so called, alluded to in the resolution mentioned—that we believe in the different States that have adopted it—that it comes nearer than anything yet tried to remove and prevent the enormous evils of intemperance, and when it shall be adopted by the people of every State in our Union, we think the cause of Temperance will be victorious. For these views, as the ground of our confidence, we rely upon numerous facts, which no one can deny—upon rational conclusions, which none can disprove. Considering, however, that our State is not yet ripe for so strong and energetic action,—the friends of Temperance not being sufficiently satisfied on the best plan to pursue, some doubtful, some timid, some excessively cautious—considering, also, the action taken by the State Temperance Convention at Selma, we would recommend a Memorial to the Legislature of our State, asking for the passage of a law according to the features of the “Alabama Bill;” and we would earnestly recommend and urge every member of our Association, like a christian, a man, a freeman, and a patriot, to exert himself and use his influence to procure the passage of this bill. That its features are in accordance with the principles of our Government, we cannot doubt—that it may be productive of much good, and prepare the way for a final correction of the evil, we would gladly hope.

We, also, beg leave to say a few words in general upon the subject submitted to us. Throughout our Association Temperance, as now understood, has many warm and devoted friends. But we regret to say that, amongst the members of our Churches, it has also enemies. Some still consider the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, necessary, at least, as a medicine, under which form they find it convenient to use it very often. Others still drink as in former days, to excess; and a few there are,—it is to be hoped very few,—who indulge in its use either through ignorance, ill-will, or prejudice against a particular organization known as “Sons of Temperance,” and formed by the benevolent and philanthropic of the age, as the best safeguard they could devise. *Christian Churches failing to be Temperance Societies* through prejudice against this, placing themselves among the avowed enemies

of Temperance, and apparently gratified at the triumphs of excess and riot, because the "Sons of Temperance" for a time were vanquished. Alas! that this should be said of one of any called Christians! Oh, Mantle of Charity, if possibly large enough, with all thy folds hide these defects from a sharp-eyed world, eager to see blots and blemishes. We cannot well too strongly express our disapprobation of the course of any who allow themselves to oppose what is truly good, because they do not personally approve all the means that are used. "Whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report."

In conclusion, your Committee would beg leave respectfully to suggest that more light, more information should be disseminated amongst our brethren, that those who now use spirits so frequently as a medicine, beholding the dangerous example they set, the risk they incur for their children, may be constrained to adopt the principles of Paul, "if meat make my brother to offend I will eat no meat while the world stands,"—that those who drink to excess, those who oppose the organization of the day, may see clearly that such things are unbecoming men and christians, then may we look for wholesome laws and soon expect the time to come when intemperance and its kindred vices, profanity, gaming, licentiousness, shall be banished from all our land and we become a "Nation whose God is the Lord."

Your Committee would moreover recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Whereas, our Association has by repeated resolutions and otherwise, signified their strong disapprobation of the members of the Churches visiting and drinking in liquor shops, and also the use of intoxicating drinks by the members of the Churches to the injury of the cause of Christ, and whereas some of our Churches have combined to give countenance to both these practices by not using strict discipline with their delinquent members, Therefore,

*Resolved, 1st.* That a Committee be appointed to inquire into this subject, to visit and labor with such disorderly Church and report at the next Association.

*Resolved, 2d.* That it is our duty to withdraw from such disorderly Churches, who will not cease (after due labors had with them) to disgrace the cause of our Holy Redeemer.

Respectfully submitted,

H. CREIGHTON, *Chairman.*

This Report being read, a motion was made by Bro. B. C. Foster, to postpone that portion of it which had been referred to the standing Committee on Temperance, and also that in reference to memorializing the Legislature, until the 1st of January 1854; which motion was carried by the following vote—Ayes, 24, Noes, 15.

The vote being recorded stood as follows:

*Affirmative*—A. J. Benson, Wm. Larimore, J. G. Williams, J. B. Williams, A. Waller, L. Etheridge, A. Lancaster, R. H. Hudson, W. H. Reed, L. L. Dewitt, B. C. Foster, D. Bird, G. B. Jones, T. Tucker, T. J. Holtam, W. Merrill, M. Westbrook, S. Madison, B. T. Parker, L. Simmons, Jno. Jackson, J. P. Vaughan, Jas. Pierson, Jas. Nichols—24.

*Negative*—Jno. Daniel, N. Thomas, H. Adams, A. A. Connella, N. Smith, R. D. Marshall, W. L. Kelly, W. J. Parker, B. W. Reed, L. L. Fox, I. B. Vaiden, A. G. Hudson, J. Reeves, Wm. D. Thurston, J. Dunaway—15.

The remainder of the Report was laid on the table.

The Committees under the fifth head of the "Standing Order of Business" being called for, that on the "Digest of the Letters" made their Report which was adopted—[See this Report in "The State of the Churches."]

H. ADAMS, *Chairman*.

The Committee on Finance and Auditing reported as follows :

*We have received,*

For Printing the Minutes.....	\$ 69 60
" the Association Fund.....	3 95
" Home Missions, including \$32 85 collected on Sabbath.	135 28
" Missions to the Blacks, including \$4 40 col'd do	6 60
" Foreign Missions, \$15 30 collected do	15 80
" Indian Missions, (including 25 cts. <i>over</i> in making change)	50
" the Bible cause.....	75

Total amount received.....\$232 48

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. B. WILLIAMS, *Chairman*.

Report accepted and Committee discharged.

## DOCUMENTS AND REQUESTS.

The Committee on Documents and Requests beg leave to state, that they have examined the papers committed to their charge, from which they learn—

That the next Association will be held with the Bethel Church in the 4th District.

The 1st District meeting with the Pigeon Creek Church,

" 2d	"	"	"	Union
" 3d	"	"	"	Fellowship
" 4th	"	"	"	Concord

In reference to the request from Linden Church, we recommend the appointment of a Committee to visit and advise with said Church, and report at the next meeting of your body.

We also recommend the appointment of a Committee to investigate the subjects referred to in the Spring Hill letter, and report thereon at the next meeting of the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Adopted.

H. CREIGHTON, *Chairman*.

## NOMINATIONS.

The Committee on Nominations offered the following Report :

*To Preach the Introductory Sermon at the next Association*—Elder Ed. Baptist; Brother J. Reeves, Alternate.

*To Preach the Missionary Sermon*—Rev. L. L. Fox ; Brother L. L. Dewitt, Alternate.

*To Compose the Executive Board the Coming Year*—Brethren L. B. Lane, Fox, Vaiden, P. H. Pitts and R. D. Marshall, who are authorized to fill any vacancy that may occur by resignation or otherwise.

*Treasurer of the Association*—R. D. Marshall.

*Delegates to the Baptist State Convention*—E. G. Talbert, A. Holmes, J. Reeves, John Talbert, A. A. Connella, Ed. Baptist, E. G. Baptist, F. C. Lowry and L. L. Fox.

*Messengers to the Bethlehem Association*—J. P. Vaughn, H. Creighton.

*Messengers to the Alabama Association*—E. G. Talbert, A. Holmes, J. Reeves.

*Messengers to the Cahaba Association*—L. L. Fox, L. B. Lane, A. G. Hudson, E. G. Baptist, J. B. Vaiden.

*Messengers to the Little Bigby Association*—L. B. Lane, W. J. Parker, N. Smith, A. A. Connella.

*Messengers to the Choctaw Association*—T. Tucker, J. G. Williams.

*Messengers to the Pine Barren Association*—J. Talbert, J. Reeves.

Respectfully submitted,

J. G. WILLIAMS, *Chairman.*

Report adopted, and nominations consequently confirmed.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

W. J. Parker, Chairman of Committee on Correspondence, presented the several Letters required to be written, which were read and approved.

## OBITUARY OF ELDER WILLIAM DOSSEY.

Whereas, it has pleased the Father of our Spirits to remove from the scenes of time our highly esteemed, useful and venerated brother, ELDER WILLIAM DOSSEY, who, for the past eighteen years, has been connected with this Association, and for several years of this time was our Moderator—Therefore, be it

*Resolved, 1st,* That, while it becomes us to bow in humble submission to the will of our all-wise and gracious God, we nevertheless are deeply penetrated by a sense of the loss we have sustained in the death of our worthy and exemplary brother, who for so many years presided over our deliberations, aided us with the counsels of his experience, and encouraged us by his christian example and cheerful trust in our Heavenly Father.



*Resolved, 2d,* That in firm, unyielding love of truth,—in conscientious and punctual discharge of duty,—in equanimity of temper and humbleness of mind, as well as in suavity of manners and those traits of character that adorn the Minister, beautify the christian, and endear the friend, our deceased brother has left us an illustrious example, worthy of imitation by both Ministers and private christians.

*Resolved, 3d,* That, to the surviving members of Brother Dossey's family, we hereby tender our heartfelt sympathies in their recent afflictive bereavement.

*Resolved, 4th,* That we respectfully suggest to them the propriety of submitting his papers to some suitable biographer, to prepare a memoir and collection of sermons and other writings for publication.

*Resolved 5th,* That our clerk be requested to furnish the family with a copy of these resolutions.

F. C. LOWRY, J. G. WILLIAMS, T. TUCKER, *Committee.*

The Special Agent on Educational Funds offered the following Report, which was adopted :

N. Smith in account with the "Bethel Baptist Association," Ala., from October 1st, 1852, to October, 1853.

Received notes on the following individuals:—John Autery, due January 1st, 1854—\$5 00; L. D. Godbold, \$5 00; Ann E. Adams, \$5 00; E. W. Campbell, \$1 00; William Evans, \$5 00; Martha A. Campbell, \$2 00; H. Adams, \$1 00; G. Gorin, \$5 00; L. Roberts, \$1 00; T. J. Adams, \$5 00; B. R. Thomas, \$10 00; Eleanor Thomas, \$5 00; Susan C. Thomas, \$5 00; Rebecca Campbell, \$2 00; Calvin M. Fumery, \$1 00; Nathan Thomas, \$2 00; John W. Alexander, \$2 00; James J. Williams, \$1 00; R. H. Hudson, \$2 00; A. Lancaster, \$1 00; Thomas G. Dickson, \$10 00; William ———, \$3 00; R. H. Tucker, \$5 00; Eliza W. Kuse, \$4 00; A. J. Norwood, \$4 00; Wm. G. Stoval, \$2 50; Moses Nickols, \$3 00; James Laws, \$2 00; J. E. Law, \$1 00; C. F. Compton, \$2 00; John R. Coats, \$2 00. Sum, \$104 50.

*Cash Received :*

John Rogers, per Marshall, \$2 00; N. Thomas, \$1 00; James and J. A. Cleveland, \$5 00; Lewis Pope, \$1 00; H. B. Cleveland, \$1 00; Larkin Forman, \$1 00; J. Waldrum, \$2 00; Miss Waldrum, 50 cts.; collection by Brother Hickson, per A. A. Connella, \$6 00. Amount, \$19 50.

And further, your Agent has received several letters (which he has in possession) from various solicitors, stating amounts pledged for the cause of Education, which we hope will yet be realized.

In conclusion I would state, that I shall shortly remove out of the bounds of this Association, and I herewith offer my resignation as your Agent in this good work, and hope you will appoint one more faithful and better qualified.

N. SMITH, Agent.

Upon the resignation of the Agent, Brother S. Madison was elected to that office, and required to receive in charge the Educational Funds.

The Solicitors for the coming year will be—

A motion was made and carried requiring those Churches that have no acting Solicitors to report themselves, that Solicitors may be appointed.

<i>For Pigeon Creek</i> —Jas. Cleveland.	<i>For Pisgah</i> —Nathan Thomas.
" <i>Bassett's Creek</i> —Josiah Jones.	" <i>Liberty</i> —James Nichols.
" <i>Paran</i> —Zeno S. Parker.	" <i>Linden</i> —B. Ringgold.
" <i>Rockville</i> —T. H. Ball.	" <i>Mt. Pleasant</i> —J. J. Westbrook.
" <i>Ebenezer</i> —James Waldrum.	" <i>Spring Hill</i> —Jno. Daughdrill.
" <i>Horeb</i> —John Daniel.	" <i>Providence</i> —S. Madison.
" <i>Salem</i> —N. Kennedy.	" <i>Dayton</i> —E. G. Baptist.
" <i>Ulconush</i> —J. M. Todd.	" <i>Fellowship</i> —B. W. Reed.
" <i>Nanafalia</i> —J. B. Williams.	" <i>Uniontown</i> —A. G. Hudson.
" <i>Union</i> —R. H. Hudson.	" <i>Concord</i> —A. Holmes.
" <i>Elim</i> —J. S. Trawick.	" <i>Hebron</i> —C. W. Lee.
" <i>Newhope</i> —B. C. Foster.	" <i>Bethel</i> —Sam'l Aytes.
" <i>Shiloh</i> —Wm. H. Tucker.	" <i>Poplar Spring</i> —R. Hickson.
" <i>Friendship</i> —Ennis Loftin.	" <i>Boiling Spring</i> —Dr. Thomas.
" <i>Enon</i> —E. Swaringen.	" <i>Farewell</i> —Jas. Pierson.

☞ They will please remember that it is their duty to report twice a year (say in March and September) to the Special Agent, viz: "Bro. S. MADISON, Spring Hill, Ala." [See the Minutes of last year.]

The Committee on Ministerial Education to whom was referred that part of the Report of the Executive Board relating to that subject, presented the following report which was adopted:

Your Committee believe the plan already laid out to be as good as any they are able to suggest,—and recommend the continuance of a general Agent to receive funds and solicitors be appointed in each Church. And by a little more effort on the part of the friends of Education, and a more full understanding of the churches of the plan and designs of this good and very important work, the education of our Ministers—they may yet accomplish great good.

Respectfully submitted, by the Committee.

On motion the correspondence with the Choctaw Association was resumed.

The Committee on Finance and Auditing reported that they had examined the Treasurer's account and believe it to be correct.

J. B. WILLIAMS, *Chairman*.

The Committee appointed at the last Association to visit the Hebron Church to inquire into the condition of said Church, cause of absence from the Association, &c.—reported that they met with the Church and found them disposed to re-build and to keep up the Church, and the reason why they had not met with the Association heretofore was, their broken down condition and being without a pastor.

J. REEVES, *Chairman*.

*Resolved*, That the Constitution of the "*Bethel Bible and Colporteur Society*" and all its proceedings since its organization may be printed and appended to our Minutes,—said society to bear its portion of the expense of publishing said Minutes.

## Standing Committees to report at the next Association.

*On the State of Religion*—J. B. Williams, Jonah Rogers, R. H. Hudson.

*Missions of Southern Baptist Convention*—L. L. Fox, A. G. Hudson, P. H. Pitts.

*Our Missionary operations to Whites and Blacks*—F. C. Lowry, J. G. Williams, F. F. Westbrook.

*Indian Missions*—E. G. Baptist, B. W. Reed, R. D. Marshall.

*Bible and Publication Causes*—Ed. Baptist, H. Creighton, Jno. J. Westbrook.

*Ministerial Education*—W. J. Parker, J. G. Hudson, Wm. Hill.

*Sabbath Schools*—J. Reeves, Jas. Waldrum, B. C. Foster.

*Temperance*—A. Sale, Mark Morgan, Wm. Larimore.

In accordance with the recommendation from the Report on Documents and Requests the following committees were appointed:

*To attend to the requests made by the Linden Church*—J. Reeves, F. C. Lowry, W. J. Parker.

*To investigate the subject referred to in the Spring Hill Letter*—L. L. Fox, Ed. Baptist, F. C. Lowry.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer pay over to Bro. Connella the funds designed for the Baptist State Convention, and by him to be carried to said Convention; the funds for Educational purposes be paid to the special Agent—and that the Treasurer hold all other funds subject to the order of the Board.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer superintend the printing and distribution of 1000 copies of Minutes.

*Ordered*, also that the thanks of this body be tendered to the Treasurer for the promptness which he exhibited in having the Minutes printed and distributed, and for the neat manner in which they were executed.

*Resolved, unanimously*, That we tender to the Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist Churches of Dayton, her citizens and community, our thanks for the kind and hospitable manner in which the Association has been entertained.

The business of the body being finished, at 2 o'clock on Tuesday, the Association adjourned to meet with the Bethel Church, on Saturday, before the 1st Lord's Day in October 1854.

The meeting closed with prayer offered by Rev. L. L. Fox.

A. A. CONNELLA, *Moderator*.

ISAAC B. VAIDEN, *Clerk*.

The Annual Report of the Executive Board and that of the Treasurer were read in their order, but have been reserved to conclude the Minutes.



## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

DEAR BRETHREN :—At the approach of your thirty-third anniversary, your Executive Board closes its year's labors, by preparing for your inspection a statement of their proceedings. Two of the brethren appointed by you as members of the Board did not accept of their appointment, viz : Brother Jesse Jones and Brother Ennis Loftin. Their places were filled by the appointment of Brethren Edw'd Baptist and J. E. Prince.

Among the subjects brought prominently before you in the Report of the Board last year, was the support of two applicants for aid while studying for the Ministry. In compliance with your resolutions to meet this case, your Moderator appointed solicitors in every Church of your body, to solicit donations for this object; and, at an early day after your adjournment, your Clerk gave notice to each Solicitor of his appointment, by letter, and by sending blank subscription notes to each one. It will be seen by the Special Agent's Report on this matter that, instead of securing a sufficient amount pledged, to support the two *brethren for at least two years*, as was desired, there has been received by the Agent, in regular subscriptions and cash, only about enough to board *one* single young man *one year*—say \$125; \$100 of which was pledged by two churches, Pisgah and Union. Some few of the Solicitors circulated common open subscriptions, upon which, every one knows, it would not do for the Board to contract liabilities unless with the expectation of meeting those liabilities themselves, in case of the probable failure to collect these pencil-mark subscriptions. Quite a number of the Solicitors did nothing at all. In this state of things your Board could, of course, do but very little. We were slow to conclude that the Churches of the Bethel Association would fall *so far short* of their duty in response to this reasonable call upon their liberality, so we waited till Spring hoping that the Brethren, though slow, would at length give a response worthy of their name and their Master's cause; but we were doomed to disappointment, and the mortification of informing the Brother of our own Association (who had broken up his farming arrangements for the year, to go to school,) that so far from our being able to take care of him and his little family, while he should devote two years to preparation for the Ministry, we had not received any thing like enough to support them one year. It is with pain that your Board has to refer you to these discouraging facts, but they trust that your zeal, wisdom and liberality may yet be equal to the work of giving the desired aid to those who deserve our support, while engaged in preparation for the Gospel Ministry.

The single young Brother of Tuscaloosa, to whom the Board's Report of last year referred as an applicant to them for aid, was received by us as a beneficiary and he was informed of our action, but as his health had become feeble he had some conscientious scruples about accepting our



support in his feeble health, for fear he might not be able to labor in the Ministry sufficiently long after leaving school, to repay the Churches for their benefactions bestowed upon him, and with this view he respectfully declined receiving any thing from us. Four other applications for aid from worthy brethren have come before us since your last meeting. Only one of them could we notice favorably, owing to our want of funds. We agreed to undertake his support as he was already in the Howard without the means of continuing, but he too, subsequently declined to trouble us with his support, as Providence presented another more agreeable opening to him. It was then so near the close of the session of the school, that we concluded to refer the whole matter to your attention to be given in charge to your Board for another year. From the prosecution of this important work no discouragements should divert us. We shall yet reap if we faint not. You should either adopt some more efficient plan, or else take measures to impart efficiency to the present one. It is sufficient, we trust, for us simply to call your attention to these matters.

The subject of a Missionary Agent has again been up before your Board. It has long been the opinion of many Brethren of the Association that we ought to keep constantly at work among our Churches, an active, suitably qualified Missionary Agent. The subject has several times been specially commended to the attention of your Boards. This sort of a Missionary laborer, that preaches to the destitute, stirs up the Churches to their duty, and at the same time secures funds, with which to carry on our operations, it has been thought would come nearer meeting our wants and circumstances, than perhaps any other. Two difficulties have presented themselves to the carrying out of this plan of operations: 1st. the want of funds to support a man till he should get well acquainted with members of our churches and congregations, lay his views before them, and get them to co-operate with him, &c., and 2d, the want of a suitable Minister for this work whose services can be secured.

Your Board at their first meeting concluded to make a sort of experiment in this matter, and in the absence of one better qualified for this work, our Secretary was prevailed on to accept of the appointment of Missionary Agent, and was directed to give the larger part of his Missionary labors to the lower part of the Association, which he did. He was able, however, to spend but *four months* in this work, a period entirely too short to furnish sufficient data from which to decide upon the propriety of adopting this as a permanent feature in our plan of operations. And yet it is thought that this very experiment is not without instruction on this question. During the four months our Missionary Agent was in the field, he preached 92 sermons, made 49 addresses on subjects pertaining to the objects of his mission, &c., preached for each of the Churches in the 1st and 2d Districts *twice*, and within the bounds of these two Districts he preached at places where there are no Churches 25 sermons. To most of the Churches in the 3d and 4th Districts he made one visit and preached for them. He collected for our Domestic Missions \$111 60—passed from the hands of the Educational Solicitors into those of the Special Agent in notes \$105 00, and in cash \$17 50—obtained 52 new subscribers to Missionary and other religious papers, and collected from old subscribers to such papers for their proprietors \$47 20—in doing which he rode 1,454 miles. Besides his cash

collections he was instrumental in getting up some subscriptions for our own Missionary operations, from which he hopes your body will bear in the increased amount of receipts from some of the Churches at your approaching Anniversary. We trust the blessing of God may follow his labors!

When it was ascertained that our Secretary would be able to do but little more as Missionary Agent, we appointed as Missionary for the 1st and 2d Districts, our venerable Brother Hiram Creighton, but he had claims and engagements upon his time and attention, that did not allow him to accede to our wishes in reference to this work. The Board then appointed as Missionary within the bounds of these Districts, Brother Nathan Thomas, a brother who, though not generally known among our Churches, has had considerable experience in the duties of active Missionary, having been employed in that capacity for some time by the Welch Neck Association in South Carolina. He reports one quarter's labors. He has assisted in the constitution of one Church—preached 87 sermons, besides other religious exercises—several additions to the Churches, but others did the baptizing—had some deeply interesting meetings. The Churches are uniformly cold and the congregations small wherever he found a leaning toward “the old anti-spirit.”

In reference to our Missions to the colored people, your Board would say that they have had the services of Brother J. Reeves for 11 months in the same field he had been occupying previous to the last Association. He has reported for the 11 months, 224 sermons preached—53 exhortations and other addresses delivered—1,581 miles travelled—81 baptized—3 restored—and \$131 00 received from the patrons of the mission. He has preached at 17 plantations, and at some of them on week-days. He says, “I trust a good work is going on among the servants; the preaching is attended to with profound attention, and often with apparent deep feeling. I have some reason to hope that my labors have been blessed of the Lord.”

Bro. W. Jacob Parker has also been laboring a portion of his time for the past six months under our direction as Missionary to the Blacks around his own residence, and in the vicinity of Spring Hill. He reports some of his congregations as quite attentive and occasionally giving evidence of a good degree of feeling—22 sermons preached—2 baptized—150 miles travelled. The Domestic Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention have paid half of Bro. Parker's salary, and have continued their aid in Bro. Reeves' support.

In conclusion, it will be seen that your Board has had four Missionaries in the field a portion of the year who have reported an aggregate of about 24 months labor, in which time they have travelled about 3,500 miles, preached 425 sermons, delivered over 100 exhortations and other addresses on religious subjects, baptized 83, and received for their support from the fields of labor about \$240 00. May the Lord's blessings follow their labors!

Respectfully submitted.

NATHAN SMITH, President.

A. A. CONNELLA, Secretary.

## THE TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

### ROBERT D. MARSHALL, in account with the Bethel Baptist Association.

#### 1852. *Home Mission Fund—Received.*

Oct. 7.	Balance reported on hand last Association.....	\$504 28
" "	From Financial Committee of last Association.....	93 10
	From same, being the collection on Sabbath .....	44 45
1853.		
Jan. 8.	From District Meeting at Horeb, by A. A. Connella.....	20 85
	From A. A. Connella, being am't. collected at Nanfalia \$7 85	
	—Liberty, \$5 00.....	\$12 85
	Union, \$3 25—New Hope, \$1 95.....	5 20
	Friendship, \$2 25—District Meeting at Pisgah, \$14 10.....	16 35
	Enon, \$0 65—Ulcoush, \$23 35.....	24 00
	Gosport, \$2 00—Horeb, \$7 25.....	9 25
	Bro. Kenneday, \$0 50—E. B. Gwynn, \$1 50.....	2 00
	Mr. Mathew Cox, \$0 50—Pigeon Creek, \$35 00.....	\$35 50
		105 15
May 29.	From District Meeting at Providence.....	20 50
Oct. 3.	From District Meeting at Uniontown.....	28 30
" "	From patrons of our colored Missions, paid to Bro. Reeves.....	131 00
" "	From Shiloh Church, by A. A. Connella.....	5 00
	Total amount received.....	\$952 63

#### 1852. *Home Mission Fund—Disbursed.*

Oct. 8.	Amount paid J. Reeves for qr. ending Sept. 30th, 1852.....	\$58 35
1853.		
Mar 21.	Amount paid Bro. Reeves for quarter ending Dec. 31st, '52.....	\$50 00
Ap'l 21.	Amount paid A. A. Connella, Missionary Agent.....	200 00
Oct. 3.	Amount paid W. J. Parker for two quarters ending Sept. 30th, '53	50 00
" "	Amount paid N. Thomas for quarter ending Sept. 30th, '53.....	100 00
" "	Amount paid J. Reeves by patrons of his Mission.....	131 00
" "	Amount paid J. Reeves for total balance due him.....	2 34
	Total amount of this fund disbursed.....	\$591 69
	Leaving a balance on hand of.....	\$360 94
	Amount paid J. Reeves for quarter ending March 31, '53.....	50 00
		\$310 94

#### 1852. *Foreign Mission Fund—Received.*

Oct. 7.	Balance on hand at last Association.....	\$0 75
" "	From Financial Committee of last Association for Foreign Mis-	
	sions in China.....	1 10
	Foreign Missions in Africa.....	7 40
	" " among the Indians.....	0 50
	" " not designated where .....	5 00—14 00
1853.		
Ap'l 21.	From Blacks at Pisgah for Missions in Africa.....	1 45
	Total Amount received for Foreign Missions.....	\$16 20

#### 1852. *Foreign Mission Fund—Disbursed.*

Oct. 8.	Sent to Ala. Baptist Convention by A. A. Connella.....	\$14 75
	Leaving a balance on hand of this fund, of.....	\$1 45

**1852. Education Fund—Received.**

Oct. 7. Balance on hand at last Association.....	\$45 70
“ “ From Financial Committee of last Association.....	1 20
Total amount of this fund Received.....	<u>\$46 90</u>

**1852. Education Fund—Disbursed.**

Nov. 27. Amount paid for circulars and blank notes for the Solicitors....	\$15 00
Leaving a balance on hand of this fund, of.....	<u>\$31 90</u>

**1852. Miscellaneous Funds—Received.**

Oct. 7. From the Financial Committee of last Association for Missions in California.....	\$8 50
Bible cause.....	0 60
Southern Baptist Publication Society.....	0 40
Total amount of these funds received.....	<u>\$9 50</u>

**1852. Miscellaneous Funds—Disbursed.**

Oct. 8. Sent to the Convention by A. A. Connella.....	<u>\$9 50</u>
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**1852. Contingent Fund—Received.**

Oct. 7. Balance on hand at last Association.....	\$4 50
From the Financial Committee of last Association for printing Minutes.....	\$67 85
For Association Fund.....	1 00—68 85
Total amount of Contingent Fund received.....	<u>\$73 35</u>

**1852. Contingent Fund—Disbursed.**

Amount paid for printing 1000 Minutes.....	\$50 00
Amount paid for freight on the Minutes.....	1 00
Amount paid for storage on same at Nanafalia.....	25
Amount paid for wrapping-paper for the Minutes.....	62
Amount paid for postage on the Minutes.....	6 15
Amount paid Sister Hill, as per order of Association....	15 00
Total amount of this fund Disbursed.....	<u>\$73 02</u>
Leaving in hand a balance of.....	<u>\$00 33</u>

**SUMMARY.**

1853.—I have on hand on this, the 5th day of October, 1853—	
Of the <i>Home Mission Fund</i> .....	\$310 94
Of the <i>Foreign Mission Fund</i> .....	1 45
Of the <i>Education Fund</i> .....	31 90
Of the <i>Miscellaneous Funds</i> .....	00 00
Of the <i>Contingent Fund</i> .....	00 33

Respectfully submitted,

R. D. MARSHALL, *Treasurer.*



## Address of the Ministers of the Association.

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EDWARD BAPTIST,	Dayton,	Marengo County,	Ala.
EDWARD G. BAPTIST	"	"	"
L. L. FOX,	Uniontown	Perry	"
A. A. CONNELLA,	Spring Hill,	Marengo	"
W. J. PARKER	Demopolis,	"	"
F. C. LOWRY,	McKinley,	"	"
JOHN TALBERT,	"	"	"
J. REEVES,	Liberty Hill,	Dallas	"
N. THOMAS,	Pine Hill,	Wilcox	"
H. CREIGHTON,	Grove Hill,	Clarke	"
WILLIAM HILL,	"	"	"
N. GOODWIN,	Suggsville,	"	"
F. F. HARRIS,	Coffeeville,	"	"
WILLIAM RUSSELL,	"	"	"
JNO. G. WILLIAMS,	Nanafalia,	Marengo,	"
B. W. HERRIN,	"	"	"
WILLIAM IVANS,	"	"	"
TRUEHEART TUCKER,	Shiloh,	"	"
L. L. DEWITT,	Choctaw Corner,	Clarke	"
R. HICKSON,	Clifton,	Wilcox	"
A. SALE,	Bethel	"	"
J. P. VAUGHAN,	Camden,	"	"

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## LICENTIATES.

HUGER ADAMS,	Pine Hill,	Wilcox County,	Ala.
T. H. BALL,	Jackson	Clarke	"
A. J. STRINGER,	"	"	"
J. GREENE,	Shiloh,	Marengo	"

## STANDING ORDER OF BUSINESS.

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- I.—Hear the Letters from the Churches and make out the Roll.
- II.—Elect a Moderator and Clerk.
- III.—Extend the usual invitations to visiting Brethren.
- IV.—Call for Petitions from Churches that may wish to unite with us.
- V.—Appoint the following Committees to Report during this Session:
  1. To arrange the Preaching during the Meeting.
  2. To prepare a Digest of the Letters from the Churches.
  3. On Finance and Auditing.
  4. On Documents and Requests.
  5. On Nominations.
  6. On Correspondence, and on any other subject that may require the labors of a Committee during the Session.
- VI.—Call for Correspondence.
- VII.—Have the Rules of Decorum read.
- VIII.—Call and correct the Roll.
- IX.—Hear the Annual Report of the Executive Board and refer it to such Committee or Committees as may be suitable.
- X.—Call for the Minutes of the District Meeting and refer them to the Committee on Documents and Requests.
- XI.—Hear the Treasurer's Annual Report and refer it to the Committee on Finance and Auditing.
- XII.—Call for the Reports of Committees in the order of their appointment.
- XIII.—Give the necessary instructions about appropriating the funds.
- XIV.—Appoint Committees to report at the next Session on the following subjects.
  1. On the State of Religion.
  2. On the Missions of the Southern Baptist Convention.
  3. On our Missionary operations among Whites and Blacks.
  4. On Indian Missions.
  5. On the Bible and Publication Causes.
  6. On Ministerial Education.
  7. On Sabbath Schools.
  8. On Temperance.
- XV.—Hear Miscellaneous Resolutions and Motions.
- XVI.—Make arrangements for printing and distribution of the Minutes.
- XVII.—Correct the Minutes and adjourn.

# MINUTES

## OF THE

### BETHEL BIBLE AND COLPORTEUR SOCIETY.

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#### I. THE ORIGIN OF THE SOCIETY.

On the 14th of May, 1853, after a sermon at Spring Hill, Ala. by Elder JOHN D. WILLIAMS, Agent of the Alabama Baptist Bible Society, the subject of forming an Associational Bible Society was discussed by several brethren present, and a committee was appointed to take the subject into consideration and report thereon at the District Meeting at Providence, on the 28th inst.

PROVIDENCE CHURCH, Marengo Co., Ala. }  
Saturday, May 28th, 1853. }

After the business of the District Meeting was over, the brethren were requested to come together to hear the Report of the Committee appointed at Spring Hill on the 14th inst.

Elder I. REEVES was called to the chair, and Bro. J. B. VAIDEN was requested to act as Secretary.

The Committee was then called on for their report. The following was substantially their Report:

Your Committee appointed at Spring Hill on the 14th inst. to consider the propriety of organizing a Society for the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, to report at this time, beg leave to say, that they have had the subject under consideration, and have concluded in view of the great need of the Scriptures, Sabbath School Books, and other religious reading among us, to recommend the formation of a Society to be called The Bethel Bible and Colporteur Society, upon the accompanying Constitution, and that we proceed forthwith to the complete organization of such a Society. We recommend that the Depository and Board of Managers be located at, or in the vicinity of ———

Respectfully submitted,

A. A. CONNELLA, *Chr'n Com.*

## CONSTITUTION.

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The Constitution was then read, article by article, and adopted in the form and words following:

ARTICLE I. The name of this organization shall be "THE BETHEL BIBLE AND COLPORTEUR SOCIETY."

ART. II. The object of this Society shall be to promote the circulation of the Holy Scriptures and other religious books, and the supplying of Sabbath Schools Libraries within the bounds of the Bethel Baptist Association and elsewhere, through such bodies as the Society may from time to time, select.

ART. III. The Society shall be composed of Annual Members, who contribute not less than one dollar annually to the funds of the Society—of Life Members, who contribute ten dollars at any one time—of Life Directors, who contribute fifty dollars at any one time—and of Delegates from Auxiliary Societies and Churches contributing to the funds of this Society as hereinafter specified.

ART. IV. The officers of the Society shall be a President, four Vice Presidents, (one from each District in the Association,) a Secretary, a Treasurer, and five Managers, who shall be chosen at a regular Annual Meeting, and shall be members of good standing in some Church belonging to the Bethel Baptist Association. The duties of these officers shall be such as usually devolve upon like officers in similar bodies.

ART. V. The Board of Managers shall have power to establish a Book Depository, appoint a Depository Agent, Solicitors, and Colporteurs, under such regulations as the Society shall prescribe, and shall manage such other business as may be entrusted to them by the Society.

ART. VI. The Society shall hold Quarterly Meetings at the time and place of the District Meeting, and shall hold its Annual Meetings at the same time and place at which the Bethel Baptist Association meets.

ART. VII. Auxiliary Societies and Churches shall be entitled to one Delegate in the Annual Meetings for every five dollars contributed to the funds of the Society during the year immediately preceding the Annual Meeting; and to one Delegate in the Quarterly Meetings for every two dollars contributed to the funds of the Society since the previous Quarterly Meeting.

ART. VIII. This Constitution may be amended only by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Society present at an Annual Meeting.

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The Constitution having been adopted article by article, those present who wished to become members, came forward and had their names recorded, and voted unanimously to adopt, as a whole the Constitution as presented above.



A committee was then appointed to nominate officers, who, having retired for a few moments, came in and reported the following as their nominations, which were unanimously confirmed by the Society :

DR. L. B. LANE, *President*,

Elder HIRAM CREIGHTON, *Vice President in the 1st District.*

" JNQ. G. WILLIAMS, " " " " 2d "

" EDW'D. BAPTIST, " " " " 3d "

" L. L. FOX, " " " " 4th "

Elder W. B. BURDIN, *Recording Secretary.*

B. W. REED, Esq., *Treasurer.*

*Board of Managers.*—Eld. A. A. Connelka, Nathan Smith, Esqr., Dr. E. J. Palmer, R. D. Marshall, Esqr., I. B. Vaiden, Esqr.

After a very pleasant discussion on the location of the Board of Managers and the Depository, it was

*Resolved*, That they should be located at Spring Hill.

It was then further

*Resolved*, That brethren L. L. Fox, Edw'd. Baptist and Edw'd. G. Baptist be requested to forward a short address to the editors of the South Western Baptist, to be published with the proceedings of this meeting, setting forth the claims of this organization upon the churches of our Association. (See this address on page 32.)

Adjourned to meet with the District Meeting at Uniontown on Saturday before the 5th Lord's Day in July. Closed by Prayer.

J. REEVES, *Chairman.*

I. B. VAIDEN, *Sec'y.*

## II. FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING.

The Society met at Uniontown on Saturday before the 5th Lord's Day in July, but as Brother Burdin, the former Secretary, is absent, and has not, as yet, turned over to me the Book of Record, I cannot present an account of this meeting at Uniontown. For the same reason I am not prepared to publish a catalogue of the members of the Society.

W. J. P.

## ADDRESS

### TO THE

### MEMBERS OF THE BETHEL ASSOCIATION.

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BELOVED BRETHREN: In compliance with the request made by the members of "Bethel Bible and Colporteur Society," as reported above, we now proceed to address you.

The object of this Society is fully explained in the 2d Article of the Constitution; and the bare announcement of it, it seems to us, is sufficient to enlist the liveliest interest in its behalf.

Can it be possible that we shall address one—one bearing the name of Christ, and admitted to be a follower of Him who went about doing good—who will not recognize at once the importance of such an institution? We hope not. But brethren, our appeal to you to sustain and carry out the designs of the Society, will be altogether fruitless, if we draw from you an assent simply to the importance of such an organization. Would you have us then to say, plainly, what response we would have you make to our appeal? If so, it is this, *I will do all I can to promote it.*

Should there be, however, any among you who do not view the subject under consideration in so clear a light as you would desire, then it shall be our particular pleasure to furnish such with that information, which we hope, will enlighten the mind and impress the heart. Supposing that there be such, to them we would present the claims of our Society, upon the following considerations:

In the first place, our Society proposes to circulate the Holy Scriptures among us: to cause that book which, by us, who profess it, is so highly prized, to be disseminated throughout our entire bounds. Nor can we recommend too urgently this primary feature of our Society.

Brethren, to appreciate as we should the propriety of such an organization as we now present to you, we have only to consider the state and condition in which we would be, were we destitute of this invaluable book. To tell its worth we have no language. Its preciousness to the humble and pious heart is greater far than all the wealth this world can offer it. Do we hold in estimation that man who is so touched with pity by the infirmities of human nature, as voluntarily to prescribe the necessary remedies for such infirmities. Then how much more Him, who is the Physician of Souls. Nor are we enabled properly to estimate our indebtedness to this Great Physician, except by reckoning the worth of an immortal soul; and when we have done this, let us remember that this remedy for the soul's salvation is found alone in the word of God—the Bible—and oh! let us not forget that this blessed Bible is not possessed by all, even in the limits of our own Association.

Now, as christians who desire the salvation of all, can you remain unmoved when called upon to rise and help—to help with all your strength, in order that this precious volume may be placed in the hands of all? O, that we could suitably impress you, beloved brethren, one and all, with the solemn truth, that the salvation of our fellow-men depends upon the zeal and activity of the Church.

In the second place, the religious books which are to accompany the Bible in its circulation, are designed to prepare the Church for a still more extensive field of usefulness. We believe the Bible movements will be greatly facilitated and increased by an increase of Bible knowledge. Now the books proposed to be issued by our Society, are of such a character as to draw forth truths and beauties, which, to one not acquainted with the customs and usages of Ancient Nations, the history and geography of Eastern Countries, now remain buried and totally concealed. These truths and beauties thus becoming apparent, an unremitting search will be instituted, which will lead but to others, and thereby, so ardent a love for the Word of God will be imbibed, that the necessary result must be to desire its circulation, and a corresponding effort will consequently be made.

Other works again, will set forth the doctrines of our denomination; and when thoroughly understood, so beautifully will they be seen to conform to the teachings and principles of the Bible, that the Baptist cause will become dearer to our hearts, and an effort to promulgate them must be the consequence, and the happiest results will follow—for “Truth is mighty and will prevail.”

We cannot speak definitely of every work which will be sent forth by our Society, but can safely say, that such is our confidence in the ability and judgment of our Board, that none but the most approved and wholesome, will be selected by them for distribution.

Then, beloved brethren, one and all, “in view of the great need of the Scriptures, Sabbath School Books, and other religious reading among us,” let us put forth our energies, and by filling our treasury, cause the Board to go immediately to work in this benevolent and christian enterprise; and let us not suffer our industry and zeal to fail, until not only our own Association shall become a wise and intelligent Baptist, but the destitute portions of our own and foreign lands, shall be supplied with the Word of Life.

And now, in conclusion, dear brethren, all we ask is, that each one of you reflect seriously upon the thoughts just hinted at in this condensed address, and put the question to yourself, in view of your espousal to Christ, your duties and responsibilities, and last of all, in view of the judgment, What ought you to do in this matter? And may the Spirit of our Master govern your decision.

L. L. FOX,  
E. BAPTIST,  
E. G. BAPTIST.

## III. THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING.

SABBATH EVENING, October 2d., 1853.

At 7 o'clock the Society assembled in the Dayton Baptist Church to the Annual Sermon, which was delivered by Elder A. A. CONNELLA, from Psalm CXIX: 172—"My tongue shall speak of thy Word."

After the sermon the following persons became annual members of the Society by the payment of one dollar each: L. McCaa, Margaret Cook, Mary Lock, M. Cabiniss, Nancy Rogers, E. Tucker, H. H. Stuart, H. H. Hart, A. H. Baptist, T. Tucker, J. D. Catlin, Jno. Y. Walton, W. Tucker, Sydney Smith, E. D. Pitts, B. C. Foster, Jno. Kelly, James A. Young, E. Rogers, Jno. Dansby, James Waldrum, S. S. Taylor, T. N. Cunningham, R. D. Hart, G. B. Jones, Reuben Cox, O. B. Boddie, W. M. Smith, R. H. Hudson.

MONDAY, October 3d., 1853.

The Association having taken a recess to allow the Bethel Bible and Colporteur Society to hold a meeting, the Society was called to order. In the absence of the President, Elder JOHN G. WILLIAMS, one of the Vice Presidents took the Chair. Elder W. J. PARKER was requested to act as Secretary in absence of the regular Secretary.

There were delegates from but two Churches, (the rest of the members present being simply annual members.)

*Fellowship Church.*—W. Jacob Parker, Life Member, and Lewis Simmons, delegate, contributed \$15 00.

*Spring Hill Church.*—L. B. Lane, N. Smith, and A. A. Connella contributed at Uniontown \$15 00.

The following Committees were then appointed :

*On Nominations.*—Nathan Smith and B. W. Reed.

*On Finance.*—A. G. Hudson and N. Smith.

The Treasurer presented his Report which was referred to the Committee on Finance to be audited:

*B. W. Reed, in account with the Bethel B. and C. Society:*

1853.

May 24.	Received from sundry persons at Providence.....	\$24 00
"	" " T. J. Key, \$2, W. W. Williams \$1...	3 00
July 23.	" " Fellowship Church.....	15 00
Oct. 3.	" " B. W. Herrin \$1, Mary W. Herrin \$1.	2 00
" "	" " J. B. Williams \$1, Nat. Malone \$1,...	2 00
" "	" " Mrs. R. C. Woodfin \$1, Miss E. Woodfin \$1,.....	2 00
" "	" " B. W. Reed \$1, A. P. Vaughn 50cts...	1 50
" "	" " Quarterly Meeting at Uniontown, by N. Smith .....	31 50

Total amount received and now on hand..... \$81 00

Respectfully submitted,

B. W. REED, *Treasurer.*



The Board of Managers submitted their

# FIRST ANNUAL REPORT:

In submitting the Annual Report of the Board of Managers to your body, we have nothing say in regard to its action, further that it has been regularly organized, and its President, Bro. A. Connella, requested to deliver a sermon at a suitable time during the session of the present Association, adapted to the objects contemplated by the Society.

To enter upon the duties properly belonging to it, your Board could not, from the fact that your Society is an institution of but recent organization, and consequently has not had time to put it (the Board) in possession of that material aid, absolutely essential to carry into operation the purposes designed by that institution.

We would, however, before closing this short report, beg leave, by way of remembrance, to call your attention to the objects of the Society, which, when properly understood, your Board feel the strongest confidence will be duly appreciated, and must engage the ardent affections, and warmest zeal in its behalf of all true lovers of the Redeemer's Kingdom. To state briefly these objects: In the first place; it is contemplated to supply every destitute family in our Association with the Holy Scriptures. Secondly, to afford the opportunity to every member to possess our best denominational books; so that all may understand, and know the distinctive doctrines and principles of the Baptist Church; and thirdly: To offer facilities to every Church, to provide itself with books for Sabbath School purposes.

And in order to obtain a capital with which to carry into effect the above specified objects, your Board most respectfully suggest the propriety of securing *five* or *ten* dollar subscriptions, life members, or life directors: and when this cannot be done, to urge the importance of obtaining annual members, through the several Pastors, who are earnestly requested to act as voluntary agents in this work.

A. A. CONNELLA, *Pres't.*

I. B. VAIDEN, *Sec'y.*

The Committee on Nominations reported the following officers for the coming year:

DR. L. B. LANE, President.

*Vice Presidents.*

H. CREIGHTON,  
EDW'D BAPTIST,

J. G. WILLIAMS,  
L. L. FOX.

W. JACOB PARKER, *Secretary,*

JAMES G. HUDSON, *Treasurer.*

*Board of Managers.*—L. B. Lane, W. J. Parker, I. B. Vaiden, R. D. Marshall, A. A. Connella.

The Committee on Finance reported receipts from various individuals at this meeting, \$22 55, and that they had examined the Treasurer's Report and found it correct. HUDSON and SMITH, *Committee.*

On motion it was

*Resolved*, That we send delegates to the Alabama Baptist Bible Society, and that Ten Dollars be appropriated to said Society to be carried up by the delegates.

Brethren L. B. Lane, A. A. Connella, N. Smith, and Edward Baptist were appointed delegates in accordance with the foregoing resolution.

Bro. W. Jacob Parker, our Secretary, was requested to call on our former Secretary, Bro. W. B. Burdin, for all papers belonging to the Society, and from them to make out the Minutes of all the meetings of the Society, to be published with the Minutes of the Association, provided the Association consent thereto.

On motion, Brother Jno. G. Williams was appointed to request permission of the Association to publish our Minutes in connection with theirs—we to pay our share of the expenses.

Adjourned to meet at Pigeon Creek, on Saturday, the 29th instant.

L. B. LANE, *President*.

W. JACOB PARKER, *Sec'y*.



